

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 L-03 PM-04 SS-15 INR-07

EB-07 NSC-05 /064 W

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R 061230Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7748

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

S E C R E T SANA 1144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: YAR ARMS PROGRAM: AIDE MEMOIRE TO SAG ON CONTROLLING ROLE

REF: STATE 081654

SUMMARY: REFTEL AIDE MEMOIRE IS FINE, BUT FORESEE
VERY SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING AND RESENTMENT ON
YEMENI SIDE IF SAUDIS TRY TO DISCUSS TERMINATION
OF ARMS SUPPLY BEFORE IT EVEN BEGINS. LETS NOT
ROCK THE BOAT.

1. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO REFTEL AIDE MEMOIRE,
PARTICULARLY IF IT ALLAYS SAUDIS CONCERNS ABOUT
CONTROL, AND LAYS TO REST THE EARLIER SAUDI
SUGGESTION THAT EVERYTHING BE ROUTED INITIALLY
THROUGH SAUDI WAREHOUSES, WHICH COULD BECOME MILITARY
SARGASSO SEA.

2. WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, WHY WE SHOULD
SUGGEST TO SAUDIS THAT THEY SHOULD GO BEYOND AIDE
MEMOIRE TO WRITE INTO LOA'S A UNILATERAL RIGHT
TO CUT OFF DELIVERIES. SINCE AIDE MEMORIE
IN EFFECT PUTS OUR LOA RIGHTS INTO SAUDI HANDS, SHOULD
THEY DESIRE CUT OFF, WHAT MORE IS NEEDED?

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MOREOVER, IF SAUDIS SEEK THESE RIGHTS ON THEIR

OWN, AND DRAFT THEM INTO LOA'S IN FORM OF PEN AND
INK CHANGES, IT WILL PROVOKE DEEP
RPT DEEP YEMENI RESENTMENT AND MISUNDERSTANDING.

3. DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE SAUDIS CAN MAKE
IMPACT THEY SEEK IN STARTING MILITARY SUPPLY PROGRAM
IF THEY DRAW ATTENTION TO MEANS OF ENDING PROGRAM.

4. WE ALSO DISAGREE WITH STATE REFTEL THAT
SUBJECT OF TERMINATION MUST BE DISCUSSED
AT ALL. IF IT BECOMES KNOWN THROUGH CONGRESS OR
OTHERWISE AFTER THE ECCT YEMENIS WON'T BE SURPRISED
ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE MIFFED. WE PREFER, HOWEVER,
TO CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT.
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

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